

# stimulus news DIGEST

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## Recovery Project News

**Central Valley Wildlife Refuge Gets Stimulus Money:** A project that will expand public access at the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Elk Grove is getting a kickstart with federal stimulus money. The funds will pay for upgrades at the Blue Heron Trail. The \$217,000 contract for the 4,000-foot trail, which will provide improved public access to the refuge wetland, has been awarded to Yuerba Buena Engineering of San Francisco. The trail is part of the refuge's long-term plans for improving public access and environmental education programs. When completed, the refuge will use the trail to facilitate environmental education programs for visiting school groups and volunteers. The project will involve the concrete paving of existing gravel trails, and construction of two 25-foot wide concrete pads. (*"Central Valley Wildlife Refuge Gets Stimulus Money," Central Valley Business Times, 8/26/09*)

**Energy Awards Stimulus Grants For 542 Alternative Fuel Stations:** The Energy Department announced today that 542 new refueling stations delivering ethanol, natural gas and other alternative fuels will be built across the country under a competitive grants program. The refueling stations will be built through a government-industry partnership called Clean Cities, which is sponsored by Energy's Vehicle Technologies Program. Through Clean Cities, local and state governments partner with private companies to help curb the nation's dependence on foreign sources of oil. Fifty-five E85 fueling stations will be in California. (*"Energy Awards Stimulus Grants For 542 Alternative Fuel Stations," Federal Times, 8/26/09*)

**California County's Library Gets \$165,000 In Stimulus Funds:** The Agriculture Department is giving \$165,000 to the Tulare County, Calif., library system. Three grants of \$55,000 each will enable the county to renovate rural facilities in Earlimart and Ivanhoe and install an automated book checkout machine in Cutler. The library grants were part of \$54 million in stimulus funding released Wednesday through the Agriculture Department Rural Development program. (*"California County's Library Gets \$165,000 In Stimulus Funds," McClatchy Newspapers, 8/26/09*)

**PG&E Seeks Stimulus for Storage:** PG&E Co. today applied for \$25 million in smart grid stimulus grants to support a large compressed air electricity storage project. The ability to store electricity becomes increasingly important as more renewable electricity sources come online. Utilities need to be able to use the power when it's needed, not just when the wind blows or the sun is shining and storage would help with that. The \$25 million request is in addition to the \$42.5 million smart grid grant the Northern California utility already applied for to deploy a home area network with the city San Jose, Stanford University and several high

tech companies. PG&E also joined an application by Western Electricity Coordinating Council to request funding big machines called synchrophasors that monitor and enhance the reliability of the electric grid. (*"PG&E Seeks Stimulus for Storage," San Francisco Business Times, 8/25/09*)

**Stimulus Funds Sought For Muni Wi-Fi:** Champion Broadband has partnered with Monrovia, California to apply for \$2.7 million to improve broadband penetration. If approved for stimulus funding, the project will overlay a dual-band 2.4 GHz and 4.9 GHz network over the city. The enhanced deployment would boost the current broadband penetration rate from 35%. Champion said it will fund 20% of the project if the application is approved. Singer said there could also be some use of solar panels in the project. (*"Stimulus Funds Sought For Muni Wi-Fi," Information Week, 8/25/09*)

**\$3 Million in Fed Stimulus Money to Help Fund Bay Area Undersea Mapping Project:** California is receiving \$3 million in federal stimulus money for an undersea mapping project in the San Francisco Bay Area. The award was part of about \$32 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds allocated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for related projects throughout the country. The research surveys will map the sea floor, measure water depth, identify storm debris and wreckage, and identify coastal seabeds and fragile aquatic life, according to the U.S. Commerce

Department, which includes NOAA. The Commerce Department said the projects will create jobs, support marine commerce and trade, and help coastal planning efforts. (“\$3 Million in Fed Stimulus Money to Help Fund Bay Area Undersea Mapping Project,” CBS 5, 8/24/09)

**Project to Help Plant Create Energy Onsite:** The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on August 24 joined the Perris, CA-based Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) for the groundbreaking of a \$46.3 million wastewater treatment energy efficiency project designed to benefit Moreno Valley, CA, residents. Funding for the project is coming from California’s Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund, which was augmented with an additional \$280 million by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Upgrades funded by the loans will enable the district to produce 40 percent of the Moreno Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility’s energy needs onsite, resulting in reduced energy production and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Upgrades also will reduce sludge production, which will lower truck emissions resulting from sludge hauling. (“Project to help plant create energy onsite,” *Water Tech Online*, 8/24/09)

**Fed Stimulus Funds to Help Calif. Conserve Water:** About \$27 million in federal grants will help boost water conservation and storage efforts throughout California as the state grinds through its third year of drought. The release of the funds announced by Interior Sec. Ken Salazar include more than \$15 million for projects in the San Joaquin Valley, where irrigation shortages have forced farmers to lay off workers and leave hundreds of thousands of acres unplanted. The grant funding will cover a portion of the costs of projects designed by tribes and irrigation districts to meet critical water needs, lower dependence on federal water supplies and store water underground. (“Fed Stimulus Funds to Help Calif. Conserve Water,” *Forbes*, 8/22/09)

**UCLA Awarded More Than \$19 Million In NIH Stimulus Funds:** UCLA researchers have received 80 ARRA grants totaling \$19.4 million from the National Institutes of Health thus far. UCLA’s largest NIH ARRA grant to date was \$1.9 million, awarded to UCLA’s Laboratory of Neuro Imaging (LONI), which is dedicated to creating scientific approaches to mapping how the brain is structured and how it works. The UCLA grants will help expand and improve the university’s research capabilities in a large number of disease areas including cancer, HIV/AIDS and Parkinson’s disease while at the same time jumpstarting the southern California economy. (“UCLA Awarded More Than \$19 Million In NIH Stimulus Funds,” *Newswise*, 8/21/09)

**Hoopa, Yurok Tribes Land Coveted Housing Stimulus:** The Hoopa Valley and Yurok tribes have both been approved for \$1.17 million to develop housing for tribal members, enough to provide new homes for 13 households. While both have been approved, the only two California tribes to receive the hard-sought assistance, the Hoopa Valley Tribe is actually the first in the nation to sign the contract and begin implementation. Because the Hoopa Tribe has a modular home construction facility that – although currently not in operation – can be fired up quickly, they easily met one of the federal government’s most important criteria for stimulus funds – readiness. An estimated 11 to 17 employees will get hired on at the modular plant to get the homes built and ultimately out to the recipients. (*Hoopa, Yurok Tribes Land Coveted Housing Stimulus*, “*The Times-Standard*, 8/21/09)

**Stimulus Act Gives \$5M for Water Meters:** An aggressive effort to conserve water with the installation of water meters got a \$5 million boost Thursday. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocated funding through the U.S. Department of Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation, greatly helping a \$15.3 million effort to install 3,750 water meters in the region by 2011. The Sacramento Regional Water Authority estimates the meters will save about 1,730 acre-feet of water per year. Water officials say the effort will curb the demand for Folsom Lake water, increasing water flow to the habitat-rich Sacramento Delta. The 15-month project is expected to create about 40 jobs to install the meters. (“Stimulus Act Gives \$5M for Water Meters,” *Sacramento Business Journal*, 8/20/09)

**Billions in Stimulus Money at Work in CA:** State officials say federal stimulus money is already being felt in California. Twelve billion dollars is already “on the ground” with a total of \$55 billion coming in the next two to three years. Camille Anderson, a spokeswoman for the governor’s Recovery Task Force says so far the money has gone to schools, Cal Trans and one other very important sector. “The federal government designated funding, of which there is over \$2 billion in our state right now, for unemployment checks,” said Anderson. “They will be increased by \$25 each. There’s also been funding for higher education, and a number of other things. Currently there’s over \$12 billion from the president’s federal recovery plan in the state of California.” It’s expected that a total of nearly 400,000 jobs will be created with the federal money, and California figures to get the largest amount of any state. (“Billions in Stimulus Money at Work in CA,” *KCBS San Francisco*, 8/19/09)

**LA's Utility Seeks \$200M Smart Grid Stimulus Grant:** The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has made plans to seek up to \$200 million in smart grid stimulus funds – and while details on those plans remain unclear at present, they may be focused on using public cellular networks and technology from SmartSynch for smart meter communications. The LADWP is the largest municipal utility in the country, with about 1.4 million customers. In May 2008 it outlined to the California Energy Commission a smart grid plan that includes deploying about 100,000 two-way smart meters and another 1.3 million “drive-by,” one-way communicating meters over five years. (*“LA's Utility Seeks \$200M Smart Grid Stimulus Grant,” Green Tech Media, 8/19/09*)

**San Diego Area Applies for \$260 M in Stimulus for Solar:** Nine San Diego municipalities, schools and water districts on Aug. 5 submitted close to 300 applications for Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs). Approval of all the region's applications could finance 160 new solar projects in the next three years, bringing new green jobs and generating over 26 megawatts of solar power. The CREB program is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and provides public agencies with \$800 million in low-interest tax credit bonds to install renewable energy projects. Already the No. 1 solar region in California with 2,262 solar roofs, San Diego's CREBs initiative could potentially more than double the capacity of locally produced solar energy. (*“San Diego Area Applies for \$260 M in Stimulus for Solar,” Environmental Protection News, 8/18/09*)

**Eaton Uses Stimulus Funds for Milestone Commercial Hybrid Vehicle Deployment:** Eaton Corporation announced its truck and electrical businesses will support a \$45.4 million grant to produce plug-in hybrid electric power systems for 378 vehicles, the nation's largest commercial hybrid deployment to date. The company will work with grant recipient South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and other affiliates, including the Electrical Power Research Institute (EPRI), Altec Industries, Compact Power Inc, Ford Motor Company, and Southern California Edison, in deploying plug-in hybrid electric commercial vehicles in more than 50 utility and municipal fleets nationwide. Eaton will also provide infrastructure for the electrical charging of these vehicles. (*“Eaton Uses Stimulus Funds for Milestone Commercial Hybrid Vehicle Deployment,” Refrigerated Transportation News, 8/18/09*)

**Stimulus Money to Demolish Old Air Force Base:** Federal stimulus money will be used to demolish old buildings that once housed up to 400 Air Force personnel in Mount Laguna so grass and trees can be planted. Since the base was abandoned by the Air Force in 1981, it has turned into a wasteland of construction debris and gutted graffiti-covered

structures. The Forest Service has wanted to demolish the old buildings for years but hasn't had the money until now. The abandoned 140-acre Laguna Mountain Air Force Base, located about 50 miles east of San Diego, is one of several U.S. Forest Service sites that will be torn down in 14 California counties using \$18.2 million in stimulus funds. (*“Stimulus Money to Demolish Old Air Force Base,” San Diego 6, 8/17/09*)

**Stimulus Funds Could Ease Freeway Commute:** Federal stimulus money might be used to ease dangerous commute congestion at the junction of three Fresno freeways five years ahead of schedule. Transportation officials will know by early September if the \$31 million project makes the short list among more than 100 California proposals. The final funding decision is expected later this year. The project would separate merging traffic on westbound Highway 180 between highways 168 and 41 where rush-hour traffic slows to a crawl. (*“Stimulus funds could ease freeway commute,” Fresno Bee, 8/16/09*)

**Smart Grid Stimulus Funding: Opportunity for Businesses & Governments:** The Department of Energy (DOE) announced the availability in June of \$3.9 billion in stimulus grants for modernizing the nation's electricity grid. The majority of this funding will be composed of cost-shared grants totaling \$3.3 billion to support manufacturing, buying and installing electricity transmission, and distribution technologies. The remaining \$617 million will be designated for “smart grid” demonstration projects, such as installing meters that allow homeowners and utilities to track and adjust electricity use in real-time to improve U.S. energy conservation and efficiency. Collectively, this initiative is poised to accelerate the development and implementation of a modernized and secure electrical grid, which is essential for delivering clean, renewable energy to American consumers, while ensuring an effective, reliable, and efficient electricity system across the U.S. (*“Smart Grid Stimulus Funding: Opportunity for Businesses & Governments,” San Francisco Examiner, 8/14/09*)

**METROLINK Will Make Safety Improvements Using Federal Economic Stimulus Funds:** Metrolink is getting more than 21 million dollars in federal stimulus transportation money—the lion's share of 22-million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants for transit improvements in Los Angeles. L.A. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard said the infusion of cash will help to install the kind of safety technology that could have prevented last September's Metrolink crash that killed 25 people in Chatsworth. A Metrolink spokesman says the commuter rail agency will install anti-collision technology known as “positive train control” – a rail dispatching system that uses satellite-based communications. He says the system should be up and running in three years. (*“METROLINK will make safety improvements using federal economic stimulus funds,” KPCC Public Radio, 8/14/09*)

### Science Stimulus Proposals Seeking \$13 Million More:

Two science projects could convert vastly disparate requests for federal stimulus cash into long-term growth for the Bay Area's life sciences industry. With \$13 million, Tethys Bioscience Inc. and the California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences, or QB3, hope to translate the Emeryville company's type 2 diabetes early diagnosis test into a liver cancer test. City College of San Francisco's more modest application for \$500,000 could help link 60 certificate-seeking community college students with internships at Bay Area biotech companies. ("Science Stimulus Proposals Seeking \$13 Million More, San Francisco Business Journal, 8/14/09)

**Newsom Creates 1,000 Jobs for Unemployed San Franciscans Using Federal Stimulus Resources:** Mayor Newsom announced a new initiative, JOBS NOW, to put 1,000 San Franciscans back to work using \$25 million in federal stimulus funding. The program began a pilot phase in May and has already placed almost 200 workers. San Francisco will use almost \$25 million of this federal stimulus funding to significantly expand subsidized employment opportunities for those looking for work, with a goal of placing 1,000 participants in jobs between May 2009 and September 2010. ("Newsom Creates 1,000 Jobs for Unemployed San Franciscans Using Federal Stimulus Resources," California Chronicle, 8/13/09)

**Stimulus Funds to Help Restore the South Bay Plan Aims to Turn Salt Ponds into Wetlands:** The California Coastal Conservancy is receiving \$1 million in much-needed stimulus money through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to fund Pond A8 notch construction, part of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. The project will restore roughly 16,000 acres of salt ponds in the South San Francisco Bay, improving the bay's physical, chemical and biological health. The project is also receiving funding from numerous other agencies, including the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which has provided both financial resources and valuable staff time. ("Stimulus Funds to Help Restore the South Bay Plan Aims to Turn Salt Ponds into Wetlands," The Milpitas Post, 8/12/09)

## General Recovery News

**Feds Launch Stimulus Reporting Site:** Recipients of federal stimulus funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act can begin Monday registering on a new site where they'll soon have to send detailed data on their spending. The new site, FederalReporting.gov, will receive detailed stimulus spending data, which will then be posted to Recovery.gov on October 11. The new site is designed with the goal of simplifying the reporting process. Any individual or organization receiving \$25,000 or more of the \$787 billion stimulus package must register and report their spending thus far on FederalReporting.gov by October 10, though the site won't begin accepting reports until October 1. ("Feds Launch Stimulus Reporting Site," Information Week, 8/17/09)

**Officials keeping a close eye on stimulus funds:** Top local, state and federal law enforcement officials from the Bay Area gathered in San Francisco Wednesday as a show of force intended to deter would-be skimmers and scam artists tempted by the billions of dollars of federal Recovery Act money flowing into the region. California Inspector General Laura Chick, appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to monitor the estimated \$50 billion the state is expecting to receive from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, organized the assembly. Chick has estimated that as much as 10 percent of the stimulus act dollars could be lost to fraud, based on past experience with major federal spending. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the fraud rate reached 17 percent. The officials assembled Wednesday said they are tracking federal spending and monitoring requirements and they encouraged stimulus funding recipients to work with their agencies to ensure compliance. ("Officials keeping a close eye on stimulus funds," San Francisco Chronicle, 8/13/09)

